

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07

LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 L-02 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01 NIC-01 /081 W

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R 101227Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7389

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PLAB, FR

SUBJECT: SECOND EAST-WEST TRADE UNION CONFERENCE

SUMMARY. REPORTERS THAT COVERED SECOND EAST-WEST TRADE UNION CONFERENCE TOLD LABATT THAT A) THEY WERE SURPRISED TO OBSERVE DGB FIRMNESS AGAINST EE EFFORTS EXPLOIT CONFERENCE; B) FINAL TEXT OF RESOLUTIONS WAS A SETBACK FOR EAST; C) CGIL REPRESENTATIVE ON DRAFTING COMMITTEE SIDED WITH WEST. END SUMMARY.

1. AN ILO INVITATION TO LABOR REPORTERS ASSOCIATION (AJIS) TO VISIT GENEVA WAS TIMED TO COINCIDE WITH SECOND EAST-WEST TRADE UNION CONFERENCE 28 FEBRUARY - 1 MARCH. CONSEQUENTLY NO LESS THAN 15 FRENCH REPORTERS COVERED THE EVENT.

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2. CONVERSATIONS WITH SEVERAL REPORTERS AS WELL AS QUAI OFFICIAL WHO, TOO, WENT TO GENEVA FOR THE OCCASION ELICITED FOLLOWING COMMENTS:

A. DGB (GERMANY) WAS SINGLED OUT FOR ITS FIRMNESS IN HOLDING THE LINE AGAINST SOVIET AND GENERALLY EE EFFORTS TO EXPLOIT THE MEETING FOR POLITICAL PURPOSES. VETTER'S PRESS CONFERENCE GAVE A CLEAR WARNING THAT DGB WILL CONTINUE TO INSIST ON ILO AUSPICES FOR ANY FUTURE EAST-WEST TRADE UNION MEETINGS AND ON NEED THAT SUCH MEETINGS BE LIMITED TO TECHNICAL SUBJECTS FALLING CLEARLY WITHIN TRADE UNION PURVIEW. REPORTERS SEEMED SURPRISED BY DGB'S FIRM STANCE AS THOUGH THEY DID NOT EXPECT IT.

B. IN COMMENTING ON THE CONFERENCE'S RESOLUTION VETTER SAID THAT EVEN FORCE OUVRIERE WHICH DID NOT ATTEND WOULD HAVE APPROVED IT. ASKED ABOUT THIS DURING HIS PRESS CONFERENCE IN PARIS ON 6 MARCH, BERGERON (FO SECGEN) SAID THAT PROBABLY FO WOULD HAVE BEEN IN AGREEMENT WITH THE TEXT THAT CAME OUT OF GENEVA, ESPECIALLY SINCE THERE DOES NOT SEEM TO BE "MUCH MEAT TO IT." WHEN REPORTERS SEIZED OPPORTUNITY TO ASK WHY FO CHOSE NOT TO ATTEND, BERGERON REPLIED THAT IT WAS A QUESTION OF CONSISTENCY. HE EXPLAINED THAT FO COULD NOT HAVE A POLICY OF NON-CONTACT WITH THE COMMUNISTS IN FRANCE AND CONDONE SUCH CONTACTS INTERNATIONALLY. (REPORTERS, EVEN THOSE WITH KNOWN ANTI-COMMUNIST VIEWS, AS WELL AS GOF OFFICIALS WHO RAISED THIS QUESTION WITH LABATT ARE NOT CONVINCED BY BERGERON'S ARGUMENT. IN FACT THE PREVAILING VIEW IS THAT FO'S ABSENCE IN GENEVA WAS A TACTICAL ERROR.)

C. REPORTERS WERE SKEPTICAL ABOUT SEGUY'S STATEMENT

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THAT CONFERENCE WAS "A HISTORIC EVENT." THEY MIGHT HAVE BEEN PREPARED TO GO ALONG WITH THIS ASSESSMENT ONLY IF CONFERENCE HAD ESTABLISHED FOLLOWUP ORGANIZATION OR SECRETARIAT.

D. BETTER INFORMED REPORTERS ARE POINTING OUT THAT SIGNIFICANCE OF FINAL RESOLUTION AS SOMETHING OF A VICTORY FOR WE UNIONS CAN BE JUDGED ONLY IF IT IS COMPARED TO THE DRAFT RESOLUTION PREPARED BY PREPARATORY COMMITTEE. SOME REPORTERS CLAIMED THAT THEY HAD RELIABLE INFORMATION IN GENEVA THAT THE CGIL MEMBER (BONACHINI) ON THE DRAFTING COMMITTEE SIDED CONSISTENTLY WITH WE UNIONS AND AGAINST WFTU LINEUP ON ALL CONTROVERSIAL POINTS CONTAINED IN FINAL TEXT OF RESOLUTION.
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E. STORTI OF CISL DISTINGUISHED HIMSELF BY AGGRESSIVELY CHALLENGING EE SPEECHES IN WHICH CLAIMS WERE MADE THAT SOCIALIST COUNTRIES HAVE SOLVED THE PROBLEMS OF WORK CONDITIONS AND WERE PREPARED TO SHOW THE WEST HOW IT CAN BE DONE.

3. GENERAL IMPRESSION CONVEYED BY REPORTERS AND QUAI OFFICIAL WAS THAT WHILE THE HOLDING OF THE CONFERENCE COULD BE INTERPRETED AS ANOTHER VICTORY FOR THE EAST, THE RESULTS WERE A SETBACK FOR IT. WITH REGARD TO

THE FUTURE, A GREAT DEAL WILL DEPEND ON WE UNIONS'
ABILITY TO RETAIN INITIATIVE THEY CAPTURED IN THE
DRAFTING COMMITTEE AND TO ACT IN UNITY THROUGH ETUC
OR ICFTU.
RUSH

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